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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/445,945	04/10/2000	WEH WOLFGANG	KKFI34.001AP	1585

7590 01/23/2004
KNOBBE MARTENS OLSON & BEAR
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EXAMINER

FOX, JOHN C

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3753

DATE MAILED: 01/23/2004

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/445945

Applicant(s)

Examiner

Fox

Group Art Unit

3753

—The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet beneath the correspondence address—

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, such period shall, by default, expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).

Status

- ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11/12/04
- ☐ This action is **FINAL**.
- ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, **prosecution as to the merits is closed** in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- ☒ Claim(s) 15-23, 25-26, 29-33, 35-45 is/are pending in the application.
- Of the above claim(s) 15-23, 25-26, 29, 38-45 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- ☒ Claim(s) 30-33, 35-37 is/are rejected.
- ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

- ☐ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.
- ☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.
- ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 (a)-(d)

- ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).
- ☒ All ☐ Some* ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been received.
- ☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____
- ☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____

Attachment(s)

- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). _____ ☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413
- ☒ Notice of Reference(s) Cited, PTO-892 ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948 ☐ Other _____

Office Action Summary

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This action is responsive to the communication filed January 12, 2004.

Claims 1-14, 24, 27-28 and 34 have been cancelled.

Claims 15-23, 25-26, 29 and 38-45 are withdrawn from further consideration by the examiner, 37 C.F.R. § 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected invention. Election of Group II, claims 30-37, was made without traverse in Paper No. 14.

The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Claims 30-31, 33 and 36-37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Krechel et al. Krechel et al show a gas cylinder valve with inlet 9, filler check valve 11, discharge 31, valve 41 and actuator 56. The valve of Krechel et al is inherently "adapted", or fit, to be used with a filling station that is "capable of being automated". Making the discharge 31 of Krechel et al integral with the main body is considered to be an obvious variation thereof. Making the inlet and the outlet of the

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same size and shape is considered to be an obvious matter of design choice.

Applicant's remarks have been fully considered but are not deemed to be persuasive. Applicant argues that there is no motivation to make the proposed modification of Krechel et al, although Applicant does note that the motivation can be in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art. It is the Examiner's position that the equivalence of the two manufacturing methods is in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art and that the modification of Krechel et al is suggested by such knowledge. For example, DE '182, of record, shows a gas cylinder valve with integral outlet 5. Self, newly cited, shows a valve with a one-piece body 27 and in column 4, lines 6-10 says that any multi-part structure may be used.

Applicant also argues that the EPO has recently allowed broader claims than those of record in the US case. This is not determinative at least because Krechel et al is not of record in the EPO file.

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Claim 32 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Krechel et al in view of Sakai et al. Krechel et al show the claimed valve except for a check valve in the discharge line. Sakai et al teach an outlet check valve 13 to prevent back flow into the tank when the main valve is open. It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to have used such a check valve in the valve of Krechel et al.

Claim 35 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Krechel et al in view of Oxley et al. Krechel et al show the claimed invention except for the groove on the filling union. Oxley et al shows an automatic cylinder filling apparatus which includes a groove 62 on the filling union of the cylinder to latch to the filling head. It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to have used such a groove on the filling union of Krechel et al to provide for the use of an automatic filling head such as taught by Oxley et al.


Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Examiner Fox at (703) 308-2595 or John.Fox@uspto.gov. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be

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directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0861. The fax number for TC 3700 is 703-872-9302. For responses after final the fax number is 703-872-9303. The Supervisory Primary Examiner for Art Unit 3753 is John Rivell who can be reached at (703) 308-2599 or at John.Rivell@uspto.gov.


JOHN FOX
PRIMARY EXAMINER
ART UNIT 3753

jcf
January 18, 2004